



ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DES Director's Conference Room

1717 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Michael Traylor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Charles Ryan, Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Mary Murphy (Alternate), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF); Melissa Thomas (Alternate), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS); Sean Price (Alternate), Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (AZDVS); Terri Leveton, Nova Safe Haven, and Victor Hudenko, Independent Consultant.

Commissioners Absent:

Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, Department of Economic Security (DES); Colonel Joey Strickland, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (ADVS); Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); Tammy Paz-Combs, GOCYF; Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC) and Will Humble, ADHS.

Staff Present:

Melanie Starns, Department of Economic Security (DES); Lynn Larson, DES; Raoul Sada, DES; Donna Bleyle, DES; Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Margaret Kilman, DES; and Priscilla Cruz, DES.

Guests Present:

Charlene Flaherty, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH); Danil Haly, Hope House; Danelle Valenzuela, ADHS; David Buer, Tucson Pima Collaboration to end Homelessness (TPCH); Pam Mosley, TPCH; Patti Caldwell, Our Family Services; and Susanna Rodriquez, TPCH

Welcome and Introductions:

Co-Chair Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Co-Chair Traylor called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, November 20, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was approved and passed by Commissioners in attendance.

Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act Update:

Charlene Flaherty from CSH gave a brief overview of the HEARTH Act. Charlene began by stating that one of the purposes of the HEARTH Act is to establish a Federal goal of ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days, with significant efforts to end chronic homelessness and reduce the length of homeless episodes. The HEARTH Act encompasses every system that touches homeless families and individuals not only the Continua of

Care and those organizations that work directly with homeless people. The HEARTH Act replaces the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance program. One of the major changes the HEARTH Act encompasses is the shift away from transitional housing with less and less of a focus on emergency shelter services. Another change is the coordinated assessment and entry of individuals, making sure we know what individuals' needs are. Another of the big changes was to the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), which has now been changed to the Emergency Solutions Grant. This grant change broadens the use of those funding dollars enabling better focus on prevention of homelessness and rapid rehousing. The goal is to coordinate with DES and its partners to identify those families and individuals who need assistance and stabilize them in order to reduce new episodes of homelessness. Various commissioners have noted that as we collaborate more with the Continuum of Care we need to come up with a more productive method of sharing the evaluative data collected throughout the state in order to get a better handle on the tracking information needed.

Committee Reports:

Housing Committee: Commissioner Traylor reported on this committee stating that the housing locator tool was presented and demonstrated at the Coalition to End Homelessness Annual Conference and did well. We have since formed a partnership with the Coalition to market the locator tool because they have the best access to case workers throughout the state. The full launch of the tool is expected to take place around the first of February.

Studies and Survey Committee: Commissioner Spicker reported on this committee stating that we have made some progress around the data thanks to the help of Donna Bleyle, Margaret Kilman and a student volunteer who worked closely with the Morrison Institute. Most important is that the data has been moved from a 'raw' form into a more statistical form. The Morrison Institute is now being engaged to do a more detailed report on the findings. By the next commission meeting we will have a detailed plan on how the report will move forward, based on the scope that we are developing.

Homeless Services Committee: Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee stating that they have been placed on 'hold' because they are waiting for the HUD application to be submitted. She also reported that there are about 12 family service providers currently using the housing barriers assessment tool which UMOM has been utilizing. The barriers assessment tool has become a very effective tool to divert those individuals that have three or less barriers from even entering into shelter, but it also helps to identify what those barriers are and concentrate on housing and income. We are making some great headway with more collaboration between each Continuum of Care.

Data Management Committee: Nothing reported at this time.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Spicker announced the Encanto Point grand opening on February 5th, 8:30 am – 10:30 am, at 4175 N. 9th Street, Phoenix.
- Karia Basta announced that the 'Point in Time Count' is fast approaching and any volunteers willing to help will be welcome.

- Pam Mosely announced that the Point in Time count in Pima will be held in February and any volunteers interested in helping with the Tucson count would also be welcome.
- Commissioner Newsom announced that they have brought down their waiting list count from about 200 families to about 30 families with no priority one's on the list by using the centralized intake method.
- Co-Chair Trailor announced that the ACHH is now accepting applications for new commission member(s) from Tucson.

Future Agenda Items:

Commissioner Ryan would like to give a PowerPoint presentation at our next meeting on correctional centers as they pertain to the issue of homelessness.

Call to the Public:

Patti Caldwell announced that Family Services received a grant to do a more in depth survey of youths on the streets. This survey is slotted to take place between now and March and Family Services is willing to share their findings with our Studies and Surveys committee.

Next Meeting:

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Adjourn:

Co-Chair Trailor called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved and passed by the commissioners in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.